

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1674V

UNPUBLISHED

DAVID GRISWOLD,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: July 8, 2022

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*William I. Goldsmith, Goldsmith & Hull, APC, Northridge, CA, for Petitioner.*

*Tyler King, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On October 29, 2019, David Griswold filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) caused-in-fact by the influenza (“flu”) vaccine he received on October 31, 2016. Petition at 1, ¶¶ 2, 20. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 30, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for his GBS. On July 8, 2022, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$50,000.00, representing compensation for his pain and suffering. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer,

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$50,000.00, representing compensation for his pain and suffering in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

DAVID GRISWOLD,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 19-1674V
	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN	)	ECF
SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

On October 29, 2019, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 *et seq.* (“Vaccine Act”). ECF No. 1. Petitioner alleges that as a result of the Influenza (“flu”) vaccine and pneumococcal conjugate (“Prevnam-13”) vaccine, administered on October 31, 2016, he suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”). *Id.* On March 22, 2021, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report recommending compensation be denied. ECF No. 26. On March 3, 2022, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for his GBS.<sup>1</sup> ECF No. 35.

<sup>1</sup> Respondent has no objection to the amount of the proffered award of damages set forth herein. Assuming the Chief Special Master issues a damages decision in conformity with this proffer, respondent waives his right to seek review of such damages' decision. However, respondent reserves his right, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(e), to seek review of the Chief Special Master's March 3, 2022, entitlement decision.

**I. Items of Compensation**

Based on the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded **\$50,000.00** in pain and suffering. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following<sup>2</sup>: a lump sum payment of **\$50,000.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

/s/ TYLER C. KING  
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